



SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



Another Year Flies By!

The last 8 years have been filled with much joy as we have witnessed the growth of each of the mission congregations in the Dominican Republic. Seminary students, vicars and interns, and consecrated deaconesses serve in these congregations, in making weekly calls, teaching, carrying out mercy work in institutions for the disabled, and whatever else it might be that is needed by the church as a whole.

We cannot say enough about the amazing teamwork that has been taught, mentored, and carried out here, by the Regional Director, Pastor Ted Krey, the LAC regional staff, the Seminary, and all of the missionaries. Thanks be to God!

*‘...he aprendido a contentarme
cualquiera que sea mi situación’.*

(Phil 4:20)

In the last several months, making chaplaincy visits in our region has taken me to several countries that I've never visited before: Peru, the Cayman Islands, Cuba and Panama. As I've mentioned before, it's very important for missionaries to receive pastoral care - and that is one of my two major responsibilities.

On these trips I've seen some amazing things and a range of circumstances, from the wealth of the Cayman Islands (which sometimes serves as a tax haven) to the dusty hills of Lima, Peru, covered with dilapidated houses on roads where mountain people can only travel on foot.

Nothing could have prepared me for what I saw in Cuba, when we stepped out of the airport to the taxi bay. Lining up to take people into town were classic cars between 65 - 70 years old, loudly running and lovingly maintained by their owners. The freeway was practically deserted except for the odd 1950-something car in the opposite lane. This was a world apart from our "normal" life.

While traveling in Latin America and the Caribbean, it has been humbling to see how people with very little still find contentment and joy in their lives. More than once I have

been reminded of St. Paul's words to the Philippians (4:11), that he had learned to be content regardless of his circumstances. In our various LCMS missions across the region we find multiple examples of the kind of contentment that is described in God's Word, among those who understand that *'godliness with contentment is great gain'* (1 Tim. 6:6). The author to the Hebrews teaches us, *'Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, for God has said: "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you"'* (Heb 13:5). Indeed, the most precious gift He has given us is Himself, and eternal life with Him in heaven.

As we once more direct our attention to the atonement Christ Jesus made for us, we see the source of our contentment in the face of all of our material needs, remembering that if *'He who did not spare his own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?'* (Romans 8:32). Deaconess Cheryl and I are very grateful for your prayers and your part in giving to our mission so that we can continue to serve as we do, in Jesus' name. Thank you!

Pastor Jonathan



More from Pastor Jonathan...

One of the most inspirational parts of being a missionary here is participation in the worship of our Savior Jesus Christ. Most frequently, I 'robe up' to carry out my responsibilities as regional chaplain in the chancel, or I play the keyboard surrounded by other talented and dedicated musicians.

We praise God that He has called two new professors to Concordia Seminary of the Reformer here in the DR. Again as Chaplain I will have a large part in the field orientation for these men and their families.

Apart from the chaplaincy work, my other work is still in Spanish, whether it be teaching seminary classes or working as director of the Seminary library. Each day has its challenges, but those challenges are always accompanied by the grace and mercy of God!



Palm Sunday at Pueblo Nuevo



Seminary dormitory with cross on hill



Baptism in San José de Ocoa mission start



Sunday School in Las Americas



Palm Sunday procession to Lamb of God mission in Licay

Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you for your patience while waiting for this newsletter. When we were in the US on "home service" (March and April), it wasn't possible to finish and send out the newsletter that Pastor Jonathan started before we began traveling. Now that we are home in the DR we are finally finding it possible.

In April, only a few days before flooding ravaged the historic geographic heart of Lutheranism in Brazil, 250 pastors and laymen of the Lutheran Church of Brazil met at Concordia Seminary in Sao Leopoldo for Disaster Response training. As coordinator for the Latin America and Caribbean Mercy Center, I arranged for Pastor Cristian Rautenberg of Argentina to be there with our LCMS staff. Together they gave presentations and lead volunteers in the physical response to the flooding. Pastor Rautenberg also conducted Disaster Response training in Chile in May. He has been a great blessing during his time serving as "subject expert" on behalf of the LCMS DR Mercy Center for the southern cone of South America. How blessed is the church when God prepares His people to work together to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of those who are in distress!

"Go and Be Reconciled" is a very popular Mercy Center workshop in LAC countries right now. I arranged for this course to be held in Jamaica in English in May - taught by Ted Kober himself, who was the founder of Ambassadors of Reconciliation. This Mercy Center workshop also took place (in Spanish) in Chile, led by Pastor Brandon Martin in March. In this current month of June, it will be taught by Pastor Neftali Garcia (of Mexico) in Panama, and Pastor Arturo Maita (of Puerto Rico) in Venezuela. Making the arrangements for these conferences is all part of my work for the Mercy Center.

Lest anyone get the idea that I do a lot of traveling from country to country - please be assured that all of the administration and organization is accomplished via computer and telephone from our regional office in the Dominican Republic. In fact, I've actually never been to any Mercy Center conference outside of the DR!

Mercy Center courses or workshops are developed over the period of a year, normally only one per year, and debuted on the last day of the annual seminary symposium. (The Mercy Center is an Institute of Concordia Seminary of the Reformer.) Once a new course has been introduced to the region, it is made available to the churches in our missions and LCMS partner churches. Different individuals have been trained to teach the respective workshops in either South America, Central America, or the Caribbean.

Most of the time, as was the case for the May 2024 DR workshop, a substantial amount of material needs to be translated into Spanish. This year we thanked the Lutheran Church of Chile, which initiated a collaboration with Concordia Catechetical Academy to produce a Spanish version of the *Lutheran Catechesis* materials by Pastor Peter C. Bender. What a joy it was to have Pastor Bender at the seminary in Palmar Arriba, DR, teaching Pastors from 15 different countries, how to use this material to support the spread of the Gospel and the planting of Lutheran churches in Latin America!

Thank you for your support and encouragement as the work here expands to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ! in Him,

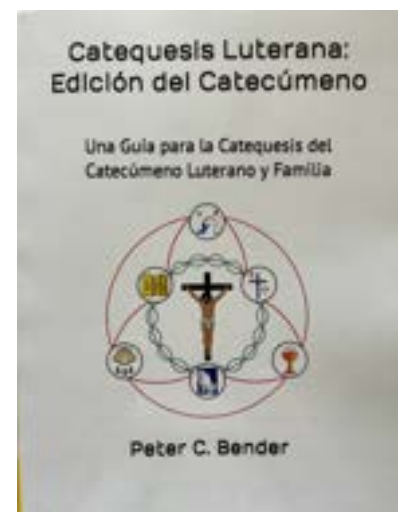
Deaconess Cheryl



Ted Kober teaching in Jamaica



Rev Brandon Martin teaching in Chile



Spanish text of the catechumen's edition of *Lutheran Catechesis: A Guide for the Lutheran catechumen and the family.*

Now available on Amazon:
<https://rb.gy/h0wace>

The Lutheran Church of Chile is now working on translation of 150 pages of teacher notes for this volume, which will be used by future workshop teachers and pastors.

Please Pray:

We give thanksgiving to God: 1) for the safe return from military deployment of our son, Lt. Col. David Naumann; 2) for the birth of our granddaughter, Lydia Rose Naumann, daughter of Rev. Gordon and Marta Naumann; 3) for the ordination and installation of students who have graduated from Concordia the Reformer Seminary in the Dominican Republic, including Pastor Héctor and his wife, Deaconess Yudaimy, in Cuba; 4) for the safe arrival and transition of missionary Rev. Daniel Conrad and his wife, Kathy, to the DR from Mexico; 5) for the faithful service of Pastor Ben Benevenuti who has repatriated to Brazil from Jamaica; 6) for the joyful rededication of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Balboa, Panama; 7) that the May 19 elections in the DR took place without rioting or other dangerous activity to the general public; 8) that God kept us safe while traveling on home service in the states of Missouri, Iowa, Indian, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. 9) For the contributions of books, especially in Spanish and Portuguese, to the Seminary library in the Dominican Republic.

We ask God for His mercy: 1) that those who live in Haiti would be blessed with a stable government, access to jobs and relief from widespread hunger; 2) that God would continue to heal Mateo, son of Pastor Benjamin Flores and wife, Karin, in Belize, who recently had surgery on his arm. 3) to bring more souls to faith in Jesus, through the efforts of LCMS missionaries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Tax-deductible gifts to support our work can be given:

- + Online at www.lcms.org/jonathan.naumann
- + By mailing checks to MISSION CENTRAL, 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034, with "Naumann - Latin America" on memo line
- + By mailing checks to The LCMS, PO Box 66861, Saint Louis, MO 63166 with "Jonathan Naumann - Latin America" on check memo line